

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8729

UNCLAS DACCA 5604

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CPRS (LANGFELDT, NICOLAI), NO, BG

SUBJECT: DR. NICOLAI LANGFELDT INCIDENT OF AUGUST 30, 1975

REF: STATE 267027

1. SUBJECT INCIDENT OCCURRED AT ABOUT 2400 HOURS 29 AUGUST 1975. DR. LANGFELDT, EMPLOYEE OF SWEDISH SAVE THE CHILDREN FEDERATION IN BANGLADESH, HAD BEEN ESCORTED FROM THE MARINE HOUSE REPORTEDLY IN AN APPARENT STATE OF INTOXICATION AND FOR MAKING A NUISANCE OF HIMSELF DURING A TGIF PARTY. OUTSIDE THE MARINE HOUSE PROPERTY, BY OWN LATER ADMISSION, HE BECAME ABUSIVE AND BLOWS WERE EXCHANGED ON THE ROAD.

2. FOLLOWING DAY, 30 AUGUST, DR. LANGFELDT VISITED THE EMBASSY, AND DELIVERED LETTER OF COMPLAINT. HIS LETTER SAID HE HAD BEEN HIT BY AN AMERICAN MARINE, BUT ORALLY HE STATED HE WAS NOT CERTAIN OF THE IDENTITY OF HIS ALLEGED ATTACKER. THERE WAS EVIDENCE OF BRUISES ON THE FACE AND HE ALSO COMPLAINED OF ACHING ARMS. THE EMBASSY PROMISED TO INVESTIGATE THE INCIDENT. THIS INQUIRY WAS DELAYED BY FACT THAT PRINCIPAL COMPLAINANTS OF LANGFELDT'S BEHAVIOR WERE OUT OF TOWN.

3. ON 4 SEPTEMBER, SUPERVISOR OF DR. LANGFELDT REQUESTED EMBASSY DOCTOR AND COUNSELOR FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS TO VISIT DR. LANGFELDT AS HE WAS IN A MORE DISTRESSED CONDITION THAN ON 30 AUGUST. DURING THE VISIT THAT AFTERNOON THE EMBASSY
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DOCTOR VERIFIED THAT DR. LANGFELDT HAD SYMPTOMS OF

CONCUSSION. ADMINISTRATIVE COUNSELOR ADVISED INVESTIGATION WAS CONTINUING.

4. ADMINISTRATIVE COUNSELOR'S INVESTIGATION COMPLETED BY 8 SEPTEMBER AND BEST EVIDENCE CONFIRMED THERE HAD BEEN FISTICUFFS BETWEEN THE OFF-DUTY MARINE GUARD CHRIS CRAVEY AND DR. LANGFELDT. CRAVEY SAID HE HAD ESCORTED DR. LANGFELDT OFF OF MARINE HOUSE GROUNDS AND AROUND CORNER IN SEARCH OF BICYCLE RICKSHAW TO TAKE DOCTOR HOME WHEN LANGFELDT BECAME MORE HOSTILE, STRUCK CRAVEY AND THEY EXCHANGED BLOWS. THERE WERE NO OTHER WITNESSES TO THIS EPISODE. GIVEN CONTRADICTORY REPORTS AS TO WHO STRUCK FIRST BLOWS, THERE WAS NO SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT A CHARGE AGAINST CPL. CRAVEY. THIS JUDGMENT WAS PASSED ORALLY TO DR. LANGFELDT'S EMPLOYER. THE NEXT DAY THE EMBASSY RECEIVED A NOTE FROM DR. LANGFELDT'S EMPLOYER COVERING A MEDICAL REPORT RECOMMENDING THAT HE RETURN TO NORWAY SEVERAL WEEKS IN ADVANCE OF HIS OTHERWISE PLANNED DEPARTURE SO HE COULD RECEIVE BETTER MEDICAL TREATMENT.

5. DR. LANGFELDT'S LETTER OF SEPTEMBER 23 WAS RECEIVED IN MID-OCTOBER, AND ON OCTOBER 22, 1975 EMBASSY REPLIED TO DR. LANGFELDT STATING THAT THE CONTRADICTORY REPORTS MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE RESPONSIBILITY AND/OR LEGAL LIABILITIES IN THIS CASE.

6. REPORT AND DOCUMENTATION WILL BE POUCHED SOONEST.
BOSTER

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